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# INCLUSIVE EDUCATION OF DEAF AND BLIND CHILDREN INTO MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

## CHILDREN RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In Mali, educational opportunities for Children with Disabilities are limited as communities and families fail to recognize their potential, and educational services are not prepared to meet the children's specific needs. Despite the government of Mali's political commitment to promoting and ensuring Children with Disabilities' right to access quality education, there are still very few initiatives addressing inclusive education. In Sikasso, Children with Disabilities are out of school primarily due to the long distances between specialized schools and their homes. Moreover, there is no specialized school for children with visual impairment; and the cost of adapted school materials is prohibitive compared to the cost of regular class material.

## INNOVATIVE AND EFFICIENT STRATEGIES

The Inclusive Education of Deaf and Blind Children into Mainstream Schools Project works to increase access to quality education for disabled children, especially deaf and blind children. This project—implemented by Handicap International—will test adapted, innovative and efficient strategies to successfully enroll deaf and blind children into mainstream schools, and ensure school performance in reading and writing. Moreover, the project will work with the Ministry of Education to ensure the Policy and Action Plan on Special Education is updated and effectively implemented.

### THE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION OF DEAF AND BLIND CHILDREN INTO MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS GOALS

**BUDGET:** \$300,000

**TARGET AREAS:** Sikasso

**PROJECT CYCLE:** April 2017 – March 2019

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- 40 disabled children—26 deaf and 14 blind—have been enrolled in primary mainstream schools in Sikasso.
- 22 parents of deaf children and 11 parents of blind children have been trained either in braille or in sign language.
- 41 teachers for deaf children and 8 teachers from the School for Persons with Hearing Disabilities were trained in sign language, and 11 teachers for blind children trained in braille.
- Each of the 40 deaf and blind children received school kits.